DOCKET NO: 246770US2CIP

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

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TOSHIKI TAKAHASHI, ET AL.

: ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: NEW CONT. APPLN.

(Based on PCT/JP02/12826)

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FILED: HEREWITH

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FOR:

EXHAUST RING MECHANISM

AND PLASMA PROCESSING APPARATUS USING THE SAME

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT** 

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.